Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
3rd Sunday of Easter
April 23, 2023
11:00 a.m.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"There is no medicine you can take that has such a direct influence on your health as a walk in a beautiful forest."

Dr. Qing Li

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE Hymn Voluntary on *Lasst uns erfreuen*

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** **Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt**

Leader: Living God, in the beginning,
You spoke and created everything that is.
People: We enter this sacred time with awe and reverence.

Leader: Loving God, in the beginning,
You created vast sanctuaries for all living things:
Oceans and rivers, forests and prairies.
People: We enter this sacred time with gratitude and thanksgiving.

Leader: Creator God, in the beginning,
You formed us from the dust of the Earth
And breathed the very breath of life into us.
All: Let us worship the living, loving, creator God!

***HYMN 14** "For the Beauty of the Earth"
DIX

***THE UNISON PRAYER** **Larry Griswold**

Abba, Father, we thank you for your presence among us. We give thanks for our Mother Earth, that nourishes and sustains us. We celebrate the whole family of creation—the fish, the birds, the animals. May your Spirit energize us for the work our faith calls us to do—to care for the earth and all its creatures, to live in the midst of creation, and not above it, and to love it, not exploit it, to be good and faithful stewards of its bounty.

U.N. Environmental Sabbath (adapted)

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL
All those children and youth who are present are invited to come forward at this time.

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 104:14-26

ANTHEM Come, Ye Faithful R. S. Thatcher

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness; God hath brought his Israel into joy from sadness; 'Tis the spring of souls today, Christ hath burst his prison, And from three days sleep in death as a sun hath risen. Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor, With the royal feast if feasts, comes it joy to render; Comes to glad Jerusalem who with true affection Welcomes in unwearied strains, Jesu's resurrection. Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal, Nor the watchers, nor the seal, hold thee as a mortal; But today amidst the twelve Thou didst stand, bestowing That thy peace which evermore passeth human knowing.

John of Damascus

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES
Genesis 1:26-31

THE SERMON **Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt**
"A Braid of Stories"

***HYMN 370** "This Is My Father's World"
TERRA BEATA

***EARTH DAY AFFIRMATION (Unison)**

The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,
The world and all that dwells therein.
We live in God's world, we are not alone.
We share this life with all living beings on the earth,
With the waters and the land,
With trees and grasses,
With fish, birds, and animals,
With creatures of every form,
And with all our brothers and sisters,
In every land and every nation.
Together we are the strands in the web of creation,
Woven and held together by God our creator
Together with all creation we join in praising god!

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

***HYMN 15** "All Creatures of Our God and King"
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE
Gaudeamus – *Rejoice in the Lord*

*Please stand as you are able

CHURCH STAFF
Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt, Minister
Frank W. Boles, Interim Director of Music
Donna Eagle Joslin, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar, Brent Roberts, Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

Liturgist: Larry Griswold
Coffee Hour Hosts: Elizabeth Cook
Elder of the Day: Natalie Daugherty

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS! If you are worshiping here for the first time today, welcome! We are glad to have you with us on this joyous day!

PRAYERS GO OUT FOR: Arden Starnes and family, on the death of Danny; Pat Wilson on the death of her sister, Mary Rose; Susan Runholt, Steve's sister; Lee Dugger and family; Betty Smith; Salyna Morgan; Bob Gambrell; Walt Roberts, Fran & Burnace's son; Blake Joslin and his parents, Carol Lee and Brooks; Houston Huggins, Beth Meriwether's brother; Bartley Spencer, Sandy Brauer's brother; the family of Bob Kesterson, Mark Meriwether's uncle, on his death; Jackie Wintle's cousin, Richard Taylor and her niece, Jessica Brown; Kip Smith, Tacci's father; Pat Crumpler; Shane Reece, Nancy Garrison's son; Pat Wilson's son, Kell; Fred Porter & Fred Harvey, the Griswold's brothers-in-law; Erika Lytle; Jackie Ligon Cole; Rick Garrison; Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, Linda Briggs; Flo Bishop; Jon Hettrick and his family; Marjorie Hettrick; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison.

OFFERING We will not receive a formal offering during our service however, there are offering plates as you enter the sanctuary, or you may mail your offering to: Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church
101 chapel Lane, Swannanoa, NC 28778, or make donations directly and securely on our website by going to www.warrenwilsonchurch.org.

SAVE THE DATE On May 21 following our service, we'll meet on the Patio of Fellowship Hall for an Ice Cream Social! Look for more details in future bulletins. Sponsored by the Congregational Life Team.

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Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church



April 23, 2023
Earth Day Sunday

Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

101 Chapel Lane
Swannanoa, NC 28778
(828) 298-9092
www.warrenwilsonchurch.org

At Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church we are mothers and fathers, single and married, gay and straight, young and old, black and white, prosperous and poor, uncertain and sure, broken and whole - and everything in between. Together we are the many faces of humanity, yet as a joyful, caring and loving community of faith, we are one in Christ!